

than 70 percent since 1972, when the first drugs were required to have child-resistant packaging. Life-saving treatment advice by poison control centers when a poisoning does occur has also been a valuable factor.

Many lives have been saved, but there is more to do. We must continue to instruct new parents and grandparents on the need to use child-resistant packaging and to keep medicines and household chemicals out of the reach of children. Underlying our poison prevention program is the assumption that virtually all childhood poisonings are preventable.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961 (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March of each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 19, 1989, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and events and by learning how to prevent childhood poisonings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 5941 of March 8, 1989**

### **Federal Employees Recognition Week, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

Nineteen hundred and eighty-nine marks the two hundredth year of uninterrupted governance under the Constitution of the United States. It is a fitting occasion to honor those of our fellow citizens who are pledged by solemn oath to "support and defend" that Constitution. As capable and dedicated Federal employees, these men and women have contributed to the success of free, democratic government both here and around the world.

Federal employees speed our mail, guard our borders, and care for our ailing veterans. They conduct medical research that will lead to cures for devastating illnesses, they man the spacecraft that probe the boundaries of the universe, and they help the men and women of the Armed Forces maintain our national security. In countless ways, Federal employees serve our country with skill and dedication, seeing to it that the will of the American people is carried out effectively.

Federal employees show us the meaning of public service off the job as well. Thousands of churches, fraternal lodges, voluntary associations,

and community groups across the country have come to count on the generosity and active involvement of Federal employees.

Those individuals dedicated to serving our country as employees of the Federal Government deserve our respect, gratitude, and recognition. Accordingly, by House Joint Resolution 22, the Congress has designated the week beginning March 6, 1989, as "Federal Employees Recognition Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 6, 1989, as Federal Employees Recognition Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities, in recognition of the skillful and loyal service provided the Republic by employees of the Federal Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 5942 of March 17, 1989

### National Day of Prayer, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### *A Proclamation*

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have been a prayerful people, giving thanks to our Creator for the blessings of liberty and seeking His help and guidance in preserving them.

Those who braved the long ocean journey from Europe to first settle in the American colonies were men and women of varied, but equally devout, religious beliefs. Many had been persecuted for those beliefs at home, and they sought a new land where they might be able to worship freely. Years later, our forefathers would clearly remember this and begin our Bill of Rights with the guarantee that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

But it was not just the experience of their ancestors that led the Founding Fathers to shape a free and democratic government for our Nation. On the contrary, their view of the rights of man and the proper role of government were derived from their firm faith in God. They believed that all men are created equal, "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." Any system of government they established must guarantee individual liberty and equality before the law, for freedom is the God-given right of all men. Calling for daily prayer at the Constitutional Convention, a number of delegates expressed their conviction that only with divine guidance would the new democracy be true and successful. "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice," observed Benjamin Franklin, "is it probable that an empire can rise